

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

20. (new) A document transmit system comprising:

an applicant apparatus which permits an applicant to submit a document with payment of a fee;

a payment acceptance server which accepts payment of the fee with submission of the document from said applicant apparatus;

a document acceptance server which accepts the document submitted by said applicant apparatus; and

a network which interconnects said applicant apparatus, said payment acceptance server and said document acceptance server to each other,

wherein said applicant apparatus includes:

a payment processing unit for requesting said payment acceptance server to pay a fee by transmitting, to said payment acceptance server, information for designating a payment amount and certificate data including a public key of said applicant and applicant information for identifying said applicant;

wherein said payment acceptance server includes:

a payment certificate management database for storing for each applicant a management number, a payment amount, applicant information and a use state of said management number and said applicant information,

a processing unit for performing processing of a payment credit inquiry to secure an amount charged to an applicant's account, said processing unit, responsive to a fee payment request transmitted from said applicant apparatus, transmits, to a financial institution server, information for identifying said applicant and a payment amount charged to said applicant,

a processing unit for allocating a record area for a new management number in said payment certificate management database, creating payment certificate data by attaching signature data of said payment acceptance server to data including said management number, said applicant information extracted from the certificate data of said applicant and the payment amount, storing said applicant information and said payment amount in the record area corresponding to said management number in said payment certificate management database, and storing an indication of an unused state in the use state corresponding to said management number in said payment certificate management database, if a result of said payment credit inquiry indicates that the fee payment of said applicant is guaranteed, and

a processing unit for transmitting said payment certificate data to said applicant apparatus;

wherein said applicant apparatus includes:

a processing unit for receiving said payment certificate data, attaching said payment certificate data to document data to be transmitted and further attaching thereto signature data of said applicant, thereby to constitute document data with the payment certificate in an inalterable format, and transmitting said document data with the payment certificate to said document acceptance server; and

wherein said document acceptance server includes:

a processing unit for reading said management number from said payment certificate data transmitted from said applicant apparatus, confirming that the unused state is stored in the use state corresponding to the thus read management number in said payment certificate management database, and thereafter saving said document data with the payment certificate, and

a processing unit for rewriting the use state corresponding to the thus read management number in said payment certificate management database from the unused state to a used state.

21. (new) A document transmit system comprising:

an applicant apparatus which permits an applicant to submit a document with payment of a fee;

a payment acceptance server which accepts payment of the fee with submission of the document from said applicant apparatus;

a document acceptance server which accepts the document submitted by said applicant apparatus; and

a network which interconnects said applicant apparatus, said payment acceptance server and said document acceptance server to each other,

wherein said applicant apparatus causes a desired document to be transmitted via said network to said document acceptance server from an agent apparatus as a proxy,

wherein said applicant apparatus includes:

a payment processing unit for requesting said payment acceptance server to pay a fee by transmitting, to said payment acceptance server,

information for designating a payment amount and certificate data including a public key of said applicant and applicant information for identifying said applicant;

wherein said payment acceptance server includes:

a payment certificate management database for storing for each applicant a management number, a payment amount, applicant information and a use state of said management number,

a processing unit for performing processing of a payment credit inquiry to secure an amount charged to an applicant's account, said processing unit responsive to a fee payment request transmitted from said applicant apparatus, transmits, to a financial institution server, information for identifying said applicant and a payment amount charged to said applicant;

a processing unit for allocating a record area for a new management number in said payment certificate management database, creating payment certificate data by attaching signature data of said payment acceptance server to data including said management number, said applicant information extracted from the certificate data of said applicant and the payment amount, storing said applicant information and said payment amount in the record area corresponding to the management number in said payment certificate management database, and storing an indication of an unused state in the use state corresponding to the management number in said payment certificate management database, if a result of said payment credit inquiry indicates that the fee payment of said applicant is guaranteed, and

a processing unit for transmitting said payment certificate data to said applicant apparatus,

wherein said applicant apparatus includes:

a processing unit for receiving said payment certificate data, attaching said payment certificate data to document data to be transmitted and further attaching thereto signature data of said applicant, thereby to constitute document data with the payment certificate in an inalterable format, and transmitting said document data with the payment certificate to said agent apparatus;

wherein said agent apparatus includes:

a processing unit for receiving said document data with the payment certificate, and transmitting said document data with the payment certificate to said document acceptance server;

wherein said document acceptance server includes:

a processing unit for reading said management number from said payment certificate data transmitted from said applicant apparatus, confirming that the indication of the unused state is stored in the use state corresponding to the thus read management number in said payment certificate management database, and thereafter saving said document data with the payment certificate, and

a processing unit for rewriting the use state corresponding to the thus read management number in said payment certificate management database from the unused state to a used state.

22. (new) In a document transmit system comprising:

an applicant apparatus which permits an applicant to submit a document with payment of a fee;

a payment acceptance server which accepts payment of the fee with submission of the document from said applicant apparatus;

a document acceptance server which accepts the document submitted by said applicant apparatus; and

a network which interconnects said applicant apparatus, said payment acceptance server and said document acceptance server to each other,

wherein said payment acceptance server includes:

a payment certificate management database for storing for each applicant a management number, a payment amount, applicant information and a use state of said management number,

a processing unit for performing processing of a payment credit inquiry to secure an amount charged to an applicant's account, said processing unit responsive to a fee payment request transmitted from said applicant apparatus, transmits, to a financial institution server, information for identifying said applicant and a payment amount charged to said applicant,

a processing unit for allocating a record area for a new management number in said payment certificate management database, creating payment certificate data by attaching signature data of said payment acceptance server to data including said management number, said applicant information extracted from the certificate data of said applicant and the payment amount, storing said applicant information and said payment amount in the record area corresponding to the management number in said payment certificate management database, and storing an indication of an unused state in the use state corresponding to the management number in said payment

certificate management database, if a result of said payment credit inquiry indicates that the fee payment of said applicant is guaranteed, and a processing unit for transmitting said payment certificate data to said applicant apparatus.

23. (new) A document transmit method for transmitting a document from an applicant apparatus via a network to a document acceptance server, comprising the steps of:

connecting a payment acceptance server to said network;

providing, in said payment acceptance server, a payment certificate management database for storing for each applicant a management number, a payment amount, applicant information and a use state of said management number;

requesting said payment acceptance server, from said applicant apparatus, to pay a fee by transmitting, to said payment acceptance server, information for designating a payment amount and certificate data including a public key of said applicant and applicant information for identifying said applicant;

performing, by said payment acceptance server, processing of a payment credit inquiry to secure an amount charged to an applicant's account in response to a fee payment request transmitted from said applicant apparatus, by transmitting, to a financial institution server, information for identifying said applicant and a payment amount charged to said applicant;

allocating, by said payment acceptance server, a record area for a new management number in said payment certificate management database,

creating payment certificate data by attaching signature data of said payment acceptance server to data including said management number, said applicant information extracted from the certificate data of said applicant and the payment amount, storing said applicant information and said payment amount in the record area corresponding to said management number in said payment certificate management database, and storing an indication of an unused state in the use state corresponding to said management number in said payment certificate management database, if a result of said payment credit inquiry indicates that the fee payment of said applicant is guaranteed;

transmitting said payment certificate data from said payment acceptance server to said applicant apparatus;

receiving, by said applicant apparatus, said payment certificate data from said payment acceptance server, attaching said payment certificate data to document data to be transmitted and further attaching thereto signature data of said applicant, thereby to constitute document data with the payment certificate in an inalterable format, and transmitting said document data with the payment certificate to said document acceptance server;

reading, by said document acceptance server, said management number from said payment certificate data transmitted from said applicant apparatus, confirming that the unused state is stored in the use state corresponding to the thus read management number in said payment certificate management database, and thereafter saving said document data with the payment certificate; and

rewriting, by said document acceptance server, the use state
corresponding to the thus read management number in said payment
certificate management database from the unused state to a used state.